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 DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

2 April 1984

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Mr. William J. Casey
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Washington, D.C. 20305

Dear Mr. Casey:

The following items of intelligence are provided for your use this week:

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1. [redacted] a new motorized rifle unit forming in Afghanistan's Bagram Soviet barracks area and occupying a vehicle part that formerly housed elements of a Soviet tank regiment. Other new equipment arrivals to the barracks area include at least two BTR-70/60BP armored personnel carrier-equipped motorized rifle companies and one mortar section have arrived at the vehicle park. The tank regiment inventory has been decreasing over the past year with its assets probably remaining in the country as replacements for lost equipment and perhaps for training for newly arrived personnel. Force structural developments within Afghanistan have consistently shown that the Soviets are becoming increasingly aware of the limitations of tanks, particularly in large formations, in Afghanistan. Thus, the unit forming at Bagram will likely be fleshed out as a fourth MRR of the 108th Motorized Rifle Division. This development follows the deployment of an SU-17/FITTER squadron to Shindand, formation of a special purpose forces-associated unit at Kandahar, and deployment of an independent security battalion to Kabul earlier this year. These actions are in line with apparent Soviet trends in Afghanistan of incremental troop increases, increased firepower support, bringing in special security units to free regular units for combat, and reliance on motorized rifle/combined-arms unit structures versus tank units to increase flexibility in the Afghanistan combat environment.

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2. Iran is amassing information on the status of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

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Iran's increased interest in Kuwaiti defense capabilities may well be related to future actions against Kuwait. The last conventional Iranian airstrike against Kuwait was in October 1981. Kuwait subsequently assumed a lower profile in its support for Iraq. Kuwaiti actions have increased Tehran's perception that it is again actively supporting Baghdad. Kuwait has long served as a port of entry for Iraqi-bound war materials since closure of Iraq's gulf ports. Tehran has been further alienated by Kuwait's continued deportation of Iranian nationals suspected of subversive activities.

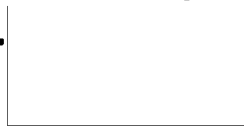
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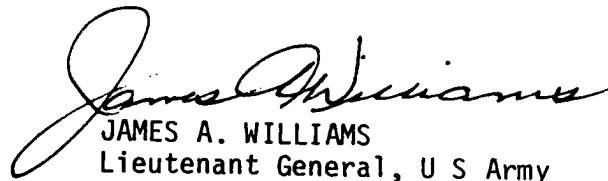
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JAMES A. WILLIAMS
Lieutenant General, U S Army
Director

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